transfer orders of an office bearer of Association of Radio and Television Engineering Employees. The transfer was on administrative grounds within the same city and therefore no cause for grievance exists.

Recruitment of labourers for Basra reconstruction project by Iraq

1229. SHRI* PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq is recruiting a large number of Labourers for its Basra reconstruction project;

(b) whether India has failed to utilise this opportunity due to absence of a manpower export policy; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to streamline manpower export policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINIS TRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shortage of Steel Scrap

1230. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mini Steel Industry in the country is facing various problems, including acute shortage of Scrap;

(b) whether the Industry has requested Government to exempt sponge iron from excise duty;

(c) if so, what is the decision of Government on this request; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to help the mini Steel Industry to regain viability?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Representations received by the Government from the industry indicate that some electric arc furnace units are facing shortage of meltmg scrap and power.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to enable the units to become technologically efficient and more viable, Government have decided to allow expansion of mini steel plants which undertake modernisation. Government is importing scrap from various countries to meet the shortage.

Merger of posts of Training Officer/ Asstt. Training Officer in D. G. E. & T.

1231. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts ot Training Officer and Asstt. Training Officer in D.G.E. & T have been recommended to be merged and placed in the same scale of Rs. 2000-3500;

(b) if so, whether it is not an injustice to the remaining posts i.e. Surveyor/ STA/GI/Store Officer in the same cadre of Asstt. Training Officer prescribing same recruitment qualification and and experience have not been recommended for merger; and

(c) whether D.G.E. & T have taken up this case with Government; if so, what is the reaction thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINIS TRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.